



## County of King

At B'klyn's 17th annual MLK tribute, Mike, Chuck, Marty, George praise slain civil rights leader



Chuck Schumer



George Pataki



Marty Markowitz



Michael Bloomberg

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Elected officials who spoke at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 17th annual tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday all strove to measure their own successes and efforts — however partisan — against the principles of equality the slain civil rights leader advanced.

And all who spoke, including cultural and spiritual leaders, and original members of the civil rights movement, maintained that King's work remained unfinished.

The guest list of prominent elected officials at the celebration included U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, Gov. George Pataki, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Borough President Marty

Markowitz. Each introduced their own policies as offshoots of the civil rights movement before more than 2,000 people in attendance on the national, state and city holiday, five days after what would have been King's 74th birthday.

## Cops have eye on area bank robber

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Police sources told The Brooklyn Papers this week that they have identified but not yet arrested a suspect in several recent bank robberies in Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn.

### EXCLUSIVE

Meanwhile, the Independence Community Savings Bank, on Montague Street between Clinton and Court streets, was robbed of \$3,000 on Saturday.

## WNYC Radio considering BAMland

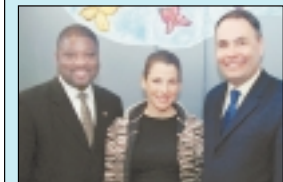
By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

"From high atop the cultural district ..."

The phrase could be the start of a new station ID for WNYC, New York's flagship public radio station, if negotiations with developer Bruce Ratner prove fruitful. The station is currently in discussions with Ratner for a lease on the East Site of the planned Brooklyn Academy of Music Cultural District.

of cultural institutions and WNYC is one of them," said Joyce Baumgarten, a Ratner spokeswoman.

## Safe Horizons for abused kids



Administration for Children Services Commissioner William Bell, Jessica Seinfeld and Safe Horizons CEO Gordon J. Campbell Thursday.

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

The flowers, grass, animals and butterflies painted on the walls set a calming backdrop to the more unkempt scene of dolls slumped next to chairs and toys scattered in different parts of the lobby.

and rent. News sources said the station may want about 80,000 square feet, about twice what it occupies at Centre St.

The BAM Land Development Corporation, which is currently working on a master plan for the cultural district, declined to discuss tenant negotiations. The cultural tenant is to include arts space, housing and retail developments that would be built on four parking lots surrounding BAM.

Two of the lots, the north and south sites, are owned by the city, while the west site has multiple owners, and the fourth, directly across the street from BAM — bounded by Fulton Street, St. Felix Street, Ashland Place and Lafayette Avenue — is under a 40-year lease by Ratner, the CEO of the development company Forest City Ratner, who is also a board member of the BAM LDC.

## Bike & pedestrian paths for Heights waterfront

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

With more than a year and half to go before breaking ground on Brooklyn Bridge Park, planners and advocates are studying options to open five Brooklyn Heights piers to interim public access.

The path would open the transitional waterfront up to "short-term access" while the property is primed and developed into a planned 1.3-mile commercial and recreational esplanade between Jay and Joralemon streets.

The idea of making a greenway that is movable is so what ... it can be applied off the piers themselves during the time that there is demolition and the beginning of construction.

While there are models that feature very little green, such as those employed in developing Hudson River Park, Koval presented an idea for planters within the barriers, "putting the green in greenway."



## Chainsaw masterpiece

Ice sculptor Brian Byrn uses a chainsaw to carve a replica of the Statue of Liberty out of a block of ice during an ice-carving contest on the frigid Brooklyn Heights Promenade Saturday.

## Arabs plead guilty

Associated Press

A group of Yemeni shopkeepers in Brooklyn who were arrested during an investigation into secret funding for terrorist organizations have agreed to plead guilty to non-terrorism charges of money smuggling.

The lead defendant, Mohamed Ali Alriyani, admitted transmitting up to \$7 million without a license Tuesday during his plea in federal court in Brooklyn, prosecutors said.

Under a plea deal, Alriyani could receive less than four years in prison at a May 2 sentencing if his 14 co-defendants also agree to change their pleas to guilty. To date, six have done so.

## Shuffle boards

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn parents made their voices heard Thursday at a public hearing held by a special state task force charged with deciding what will replace New York City's 32 school boards.

The hearing came on the heels of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's major announcement last Wednesday where he revealed his plan for a sweeping overhaul of the city's educational system.

Bloomberg's proposal would replace the city's 32 community school districts with 10 instructional leadership divisions called Learning Support Centers. These centers would be guided by one of 10 regional superintendents. Each of these superintendents would have 10 local instructional supervisors, who would oversee no more than a dozen schools.

While Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio praised the mayor's "results-oriented, no-nonsense" approach, he also expressed concern about accountability.

That sentiment was echoed by

See SHUFFLE on page 5



An artist's rendering of the proposed "movable greenway" along the Brooklyn Heights piers.

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# Bravest: Hook firehouse has 9-11 contamination

By Patrick Gallahe  
The Brooklyn Papers

Fire Engine 279 was removed from its host firehouse on the corner of Lorraine and Smith streets recently to be cleaned of asbestos acquired at Ground Zero. For the men of the Red Hook firehouse, it was a remediation that came none too soon, and a lawyer for their union charges it exposed them to a year and a half of danger.

"I would say they're scared and they feel that they've been neglected," said Joel Kupferman, a lawyer for the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA), who said the fire was not exclusive to Engine 279 but to several other firehouses where the city took a comparable length of time to get them cleaned of toxic debris.

"They're upset that they were allowed to drive around with asbestos in their trucks, something the city could have prevented. These guys bring the stuff back into the firehouse, so they're living with it 24-seven," Kupferman added.

It only took them a year and half to do it," said one disgruntled firefighter from Engine 279.

who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "We've been asking the city to take [the engine] out of service for a year and half!" Although Engine 279 was given a lesser cleaning, according to the firefighter, after 9-11, the truck was not removed from the firehouse to be taken apart and "tagged, asbestos free" by the Fire Department until Jan. 4.

A spokesman for the Fire Department said all the trucks in the city were tested and then placed on a priority list according to the level of contamination. Engine 279 did not reach its place on that list until last month.

In addition to his anger about the length of time it took to clean Engine 279, Kupferman turned at the condition of the 90-year-old building, which also houses Lakker Company 131, omnibus known as "The Cancer House" to the firefighters.

"There's a high rate of cancer of the men that have worked there and this is pre-World Trade Center," Kupferman charged. "I think it's a combination of several factors — one, the condition of the building and the surrounding area, and two, the lack of enforcement of environmental laws. Allowing a high accumulation of toxic materials to be present."



Uniformed Firefighters Association lawyer Joel Kupferman outside Engine 279 in Red Hook.

Tucked beneath the Gowanus Expressway and with a fish smokehouse behind it, Kupferman alleges the combination of the poor air quality and an old, moldy, and crumbling building, with peeling paint chips, has exposed the workers to unnecessary health risks.

"It's definitely not Holiday Inn standards," he said.

Neither Kupferman nor the

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# No 'free' rides for pols

By Patrick Gallahe  
The Brooklyn Papers

As the fallout spreads from the resignation and guilty plea of a Bronx assemblywoman for accepting bribes, a developer and manager of private prisons is being investigated for gifts it bestowed on state elected officials, many of whom represent Brooklyn, according to a published report.

So far, Fort Greene Assemblyman Roger Green has publicly admitted accepting transportation from Correctional Services Corporation (CSC), and the list of political supporters of the company includes such Brooklyn office holders as Borough President Mary Markowitz and Assemblyman Clarence Norman, who heads the Kings County Democratic Committee.

Long-time Bronx Assemblywoman Gloria Davis resigned from her post earlier this month and pleaded guilty to accepting a \$24,000 bribe to steer an \$880,000 construction project in her district to contractor JPM Associates. In addition to bribery, Davis also admitted that she accepted free transportation from the Saratoga-based CSC between her home in the Bronx and the state Capitol in Albany from 1998 to March 2002.

She was sentenced to 90 days in jail and four and one-third years of probation. The New York Post reported last week that the State Lobbying Commission has launched an investigation to determine whether state officials besides Davis received similar favors and if they qualify as illegal gifts.

Shortly after Davis' guilty

plea, Green told the New York Post that he had accepted free transportation from CSC between his home and Albany over several years, though he denied the free rides were the company any favors from him.

Reached by The Brooklyn Paper this week, Green's office declined to comment. Any gift of more than \$75 from a lobbyist or corporation, is forbidden and could result in a fine to the lobbyist of up to \$25,000 per gift. A second gift within 18 months could qualify as a felony and would be reported to the appropriate district attorney's office. In addition, false and inaccurate lobbying disclosures could result in a \$50,000 fine to the lobbyist.

When asked about the investigation, David Grudeanu, executive director of the lobbying agency to review CSC contracts that are not on pending investigations.

CSC did not return calls for comment. The prison-building company's popularity among elected officials is etched in 34 letters from legislators, written between 1997 and 1998, to Glenn Goetz, commissioner of the state Department of Correctional Services, urging the agency to renew CSC contracts that were about to expire.

Among the elected officials to speak on behalf of the company was Norman; then-state Sen. Markowitz; Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, then-Assemblyman Al Vann, who is now a city councilman; state Sen. John Sampson; Assemblyman Vito Lopez; Assemblyman Joseph Lentol; Assemblyman Nick Perry; state Sen. Ada Smith; and Assemblyman Daryl Towns, the son of Rep. Ed Towns.

"[Correctional Services Corporation] has provided high-quality care and services to inmates within its residential treatment program," Markowitz wrote in his letter, dated Jan. 13, 1998. "These services, such as employment services, family reintegration, substance abuse counseling, domestic violence prevention, educational programs and housing placement are essential to the future viability and productivity of inmates."

Markowitz's office said the extent of the company's support was a \$200 donation in 1999 to his campaign for re-election to the state Senate.

More than half of the letters contained a nearly identical main paragraph extolling the virtues of the company that read: "CSC provides a high quality of care and services to the inmates within their reintegration program. CSC has established excellent community relationships by employing many local residents. The model they have developed for community interaction has been duplicated nationally and CSC has received wide praise from both the New York State Department of Corrections and the federal Bureau of Prisons." In the others, the same bullet points were noted in slightly different wording.

The company operates a 45-bed halfway house in the Bronx for female inmates and a 95-bed federal facility in Brooklyn for inmates who have served a portion of their sentences in a federal institution. Most of those that wrote letters on behalf of the facility were Brooklyn or Bronx legislators.

Correctional Services Corporation was formerly known as Esmore Correctional Services but changed its name after a 1995 uprising at an Immigration and Naturalization Service detention facility in El Paso, Texas, was widely attributed to inhumane conditions within the Esmore-run facility.

The company operates more than 30 adult and juvenile facilities in 15 states and Puerto Rico.

In addition to offering free rides, the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI reportedly turned over a 50-page report to the Ethics Committee of the state Legislature about campaign services provided to prominent New York officials including former Mayor David Dinkins' unsuccessful 1993 re-election campaign, former Gov. Mario Cuomo's failed 1994 re-election bid and the Rev. Al Sharpton's failed challenge of former Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

The Post reported on Saturday that the FBI report alleges that CSC forced employees of its New York City halfway houses to serve on campaigns for Dinkins, Sharpton and Cuomo.

The statute says that I can not comment on anything pertaining to a complaint," said Melissa Ryan, executive director of the Ethics Committee. While no federal laws were violated, according to Post sources, the work performed by CSC employees may not have been properly reported as "in-kind" contributions.

The report is being reviewed by the district attorneys of Brooklyn and Manhattan. A spokesman for Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes declined to comment.

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# Grand theft auto for unlicensed driver

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

He was accused of stealing cars, but given his Department of Motor Vehicles record, the greatest threat he posed to the public may have been driving.

According to police, a 43-year-old man, whose license has been suspended 11 times, was arrested Jan. 14 after he was seen stealing a car at Gold and Frost streets shortly before 3 a.m. Police said the suspect was spotted

## 84th '76th Blotters

... possession of burglar tools and marijuana.

... the effort of police to taxi him to the precinct, swinging his arms to avoid being placed in handcuffs. The suspect was eventually restrained and then chauffeur-

## Fulton mauled

A woman was shopping along the Fulton Mall when she was mugged by a man who had been posing as a McDonald's fast-food restaurant on Jan. 14 at around 12:45 p.m. and he finally said down for lunch. She then headed to a department store on Fulton Street, between Bond Street and Hanover Place. It was inside the department store, at around 1:15 p.m., that she discovered her wallet, containing her credit cards and driver's license, had been stolen from her backpack.

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## MOVIE on

A thief may have mistakenly taken the "U-Haul" logo as a command.

A rented U-Haul truck was stolen from its parking space on St. Marks Place and Fourth Avenue between 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 14 and 7:45 a.m. the next day. No other items were reported stolen and the police are investigating.

## Dry cleaned out

Two people were held up Jan. 18 in a dry cleaner shop on Third Avenue between St. Mark's Place and Warren Street.

According to police, the armed robber entered the business at around 6:45 p.m. and displayed a black handgun, then shouted, "Do not move. Give me the money."

The two employees, 47 and 32, handed over \$155 belonging to the business. The robber then fled west on Wyckoff Street.

## Bus picker

A commuter exited the B57 bus at Juy and Westbury streets, on Jan. 16 at 3:15 p.m., only to discover her pocket had been pilfered of her wallet, containing credit cards, identification and \$5.

The victim said she was repeatedly jostled by the strapping multitude, but one perpetrator exceeded rudeness, into criminality, by reaching into her jacket pocket and stealing her wallet.

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# 84th 'Cop of Year' named

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

It's not that Officer David Jackson hasn't made his share of important arrests.

After all, last January, he collared a suspected serial burglar at Fulton Mall, and on Nov. 10 he nabbed a 28-year-old suspect coming out of a grocery store on Clark Street with a stolen 64-ounce bottle of NuVim — a dietary supplement that helps support muscle flexibility and sturdy joints.

It's just that the competition for Cop of the Year at the 84th Precinct is pretty stiff this year. There have been more than a few bests that stood out in 2002.

There was the arrest last November of Luis Acosta, a suspect in 16 rapes in Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan; the arrest of Tana Ann McDonald in Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens; and while the fears of kidnappers were reaching their zenith in the community two other alleged child snatchers were busted, closing the three most publicized allegations of attempted kidnapping.

In choosing their top cop, however, the precinct, in consultation with the 84th Precinct Community Council, selected a steady, dependable presence who has happily worked nights for the past 12 years in Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, DUMBO and Downtown Brooklyn. An "unsung hero," according to some.

"This decision was based not on one outstanding arrest or feat, but for an entire year of exceptional performance," said Leslie Lewis, president of the 84th Precinct Community Council.

He works from midnight to 8 a.m. in the morning, Lewis added. "Working those hours is often greeted with surprise by community members and supervisors. However, the truth of the matter is, he is an unsung hero and one of the most vital members of this precinct."

Jackson, 42, has been an officer since 1990. He holds a degree in geology from Adelphi University and lives in Long Island, with his wife and two children, Cynthia, and their two children, Sarah, 7, and Daniel, 8.

While a dozen years on the night shift might seem like torture, Jackson doesn't choose any other schedule, saying it gives him time with his family. "I live in Long Island, so the commute is good and the traffic is going the other way," said the soft-spoken officer. "I'm home every night for dinner and I'm there when they go to school."

He refers to them as lucky — a "right place, right time" sort of thing.

In the case of the serial burglar, suspected in about a half-dozen burglaries on Fulton Street, the prowler accidentally tripped the ladder on the fire escape making enough noise to attract Jackson's attention. When Jackson investigated, he saw the burglar on

the rooftop and said he simply waited for the thief to come down before making the bust.

"He was actually kind of surprised," Jackson said of the suspect, who went into custody without incident.

In the case of the NuVim thief, he happened to pass the supermarket on patrol and see a broken glass door and a man browsing the shelves. "Like he was shopping," Jackson said. "We were in the right place at the right time," the modest officer said, adding that the burglar also went passively.

Once again, it's not that Jackson hasn't made his share of arrests — and Inspector Christopher Riney, who is the right place at the right time, the modest officer said, adding that the burglar also went passively.

Once again, it's not that Jackson hasn't made his share of arrests — and Inspector Christopher Riney, who is the right place at the right time, the modest officer said, adding that the burglar also went passively.

## PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

Happy 80th Birthday Mom! Barbara Poling King  
It all started in Brooklyn on 1/2/23  
Signed, your kids:  
Barbara, Ellen and Bob

NOTICE OF HEARING. Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 15th day of January, 2003, bearing the Index Number 0002507, is a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 405 West 11th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215, on any day or days between the 15th and 22nd day of January, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. My date of birth is 1/2/23.

NOTICE OF HEARING. Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 15th day of January, 2003, bearing the Index Number 0002507, is a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 405 West 11th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11215, on any day or days between the 15th and 22nd day of January, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. My date of birth is 1/2/23.

LEGAL NOTICE OF POSSESSION OF SAID SUPPLEMENTARY COURT OF KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK. The undersigned, Plaintiff, is a duly qualified and licensed attorney-at-law in the State of New York, and is duly qualified and licensed to practice law in the State of New York. The undersigned, Plaintiff, is a duly qualified and licensed attorney-at-law in the State of New York, and is duly qualified and licensed to practice law in the State of New York.

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## Woman, 75, conned of \$5G

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

A 75-year-old woman entered the 68th Precinct in Bay Ridge to report she had been conned out of \$5,000 while heading to a doctor's appointment in Park Slope.

The victim said that on Jan. 9, at 1:30 p.m., she was approached at Seventh Avenue and Lincoln Place by a woman claiming to have found money on the street. The grifter pleaded with the woman, "to be my witness" and the perpetrator then called over another apparent bystander who also agreed to be a "witness" to the find.

The con artist pretended to call her boss to ask for advice and said he advised them to withdraw large sums of cash to mix up with the money, which would then be split between the three of them so that the serial numbers on the bills

## 78 Pct. Blotter

could not be traced back to a single person.

The victim, and the suspected accomplice posing as a bystander, agreed and the scammer drove the victim home so she could pick up her bankbook. They then drove the victim to the Flushing Savings Bank on Third Avenue at Orington Avenue in Bay Ridge to withdraw \$5,000. The other two women did not enter the bank and said they needed to go to a nearby Citibank to withdraw the other woman's funds.

The con artist pretended to call her boss to ask for advice and said he advised them to withdraw large sums of cash to mix up with the money, which would then be split between the three of them so that the serial numbers on the bills

the case to the 78th Precinct, of Park Slope, where the theft occurred and the investigation is ongoing.

### Ran up bill

A 57-year-old woman reported to police that a cashier placed several unauthorized charges on her tab.

On Jan. 14, shortly before 7

p.m., the victim was shopping at a supermarket on 12th Street at Hamilton Avenue, when she handed the cashier her welfare benefits card to charge her groceries. She later told police that she forgot to get the card back and that between Jan. 14 and Jan. 18, the woman rang up \$104 in unauthorized purchases.

The suspect allegedly told stores that the card belonged to her grandmother when making the purchases, police said. She

was arrested and charged with grand larceny.

### Gunpoint rob

A woman, 40, told police that a man forced his way into her apartment, on Seventh Avenue between Eighth and Ninth streets, and held her at gunpoint on Jan. 7.

She said that at around 10 a.m., the intruder pushed open the unlocked door and at gunpoint demanded to know where her money was.

The victim replied that she did not have any money other than the \$80 in her pockets. The gunman took the money, ordered the woman into the bathroom and then fled.

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## Water main leaves sub riders stranded

The Brooklyn Papers

The N and R trains, unaffectionately nicknamed the "Never" and "Rarely," lived up to their reputations and ceased early Friday morning when service between Bay Ridge and Park Slope was halted due to a water main break, leaving thousands of straphangers stranded at bus stops in the freezing weather.

A water main at 19th Street and Fourth Avenue ruptured in the pre-dawn hours flooding subway tunnels and interrupting M, N and R train service between 56th Street and Pacific Street. The Fire Department said a combination of contractor work and the below-freezing temperatures caused a cap to pop off the main.

Commuters attempting to board the subway south of Pacific Street were apprised of the situation at stations and directed to nearby bus stops at Fifth and Third avenues. — Patrick Gallahue



## Bike park

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Cullen

(Behind bicycle, from left) Councilmen Bill DeBlasio, David Yassky and James Davis met at Grand Army Plaza Jan. 21 with members of Transportation Alternatives to celebrate Prospect Park's trial extension of its car-free "Summer Hours," weekdays with the exception of rush hours.

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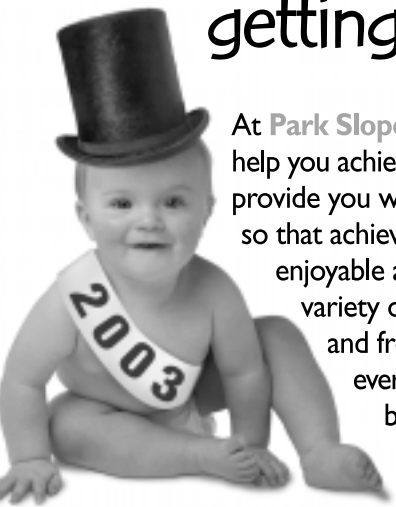
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LOCKSMITH

## KING JR...

Continued from page 1  
 cessful lawsuit against the state to increase funding to city schools. Those schools, however, were isolated and quickly hushed down by members of the audience.

"Let's work together, not just today, but everyday to keep the dream of Martin Luther King alive," Parks said.

Markowitz touted Brooklyn as a microcosm of the "dream" articulated in King's famous speech, delivered at the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963 as the culmination of the March on Washington.

"We can share Dr. King's audacious dream by working together to create stronger neighborhoods

all over Brooklyn," the borough president said. "I ask you to take a look at what's going on in your own community and find a contribution you can make."

Following those speeches a civil rights veteran and friend of King shared memories of the movement.

Fred Gray, who was the attorney for King and Rosa Parks, gave the keynote speech. Gray, who is also an author, held aloft the less-known heroes of civil rights, such as Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old girl who refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., bus to a white man nine months before Parks.

Colvin, who now lives in the

Broux, was summarily dragged off the bus, but efforts to stage a boycott proved unsuccessful, Gray recalled. It was her bravery in the face of injustice, however, that "gave us the model courage to boycott," Gray said.

Saying the "dream has not been fulfilled" and pointing to the shortage of jobs for black people and the corollary high rates of incarceration, he said, "There are still problems ahead of us not withstanding our rights."

Then, making a less partisan call for action than some of those that preceded him, Gray said, "Our lives should be geared towards the manifestation of righteousness of the heart."

"Where there is righteousness of the heart there is beauty in the character, and if we have beauty of the character we will have harmony in the home, and if we have

harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation, and when we have order in the nation there will be peace in the world," Gray said.

The event was sponsored by BAM!, Markowitz and Medgar Evers College, and was followed by a free screening of the film "The Rosa Parks Story," with introductory remarks by Cicely Tyson.

The speeches, which included remarks from Dr. Edson O. Jackson, president of Medgar Evers College; Rabbi Ari Korenblit, of Temple Shalom; Imam Muhammad Hafiz, of the Makki Mosque; and the Rev. Clinton Miller of the Brown Memorial Baptist Church, were preceded and followed by stirring performances from the Grammy-winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir and Atlanta-based vocalist Lizz Wright.



Independence Community Bank had a few hundred guests over on Thursday night to celebrate its new DUMBO branch at 40 Washington St. Ceremoniously cutting the ribbon on a branch that opened in late December, the bank hosted neighbors and elected officials including (from left), manager Barrett Stokes, vice president Laura Capra, CEO Alan Fishman, director of marketing Janice Schilling, Rep. Nydia Velázquez, executive vice president Terry Mitchell and senior vice president Mike Rainonde, who were greeted with chocolates from a slightly more established DUMBO institution, the Jacques Torres Chocolate Factory.

The building is owned by Two Trees Management and the bank's 5,000-square-foot space has been carved out of Gale Gates et al's 40,000-square-foot or so and performing arts studio in the adjacent 37 Main St. The bank, the neighborhood's first, is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm and from 8:30 am to 3 pm on Saturday.

—Patrick Gallahue

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New York Methodist Hospital has partnered with New York Presbyterian Hospital, which has its own fleet of ambulances. "This is an exciting and successful partnership which benefits the community," said Joseph Bove, MD, chairman of emergency medicine at New York Methodist Hospital. The Basic life support ambulance, staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), will be on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The advanced life support ambulance, staffed by paramedics with advanced training in cardiac and medical emergencies, will be on call sixteen hours a day, seven days a week. At any given time, there are approximately 325 ambulances operating in the New York City 911 system. The 911 service is composed of New York City Fire Department units and Hospital-based ambulances, such as the new NYM vehicles.

"Time is critical when responding to an emergency. With these two ambulances, the Hospital can provide care as quickly as possible to members of our community," said Michael Guttenberg, MD, director of pre-hospital care at New York Methodist. Dr. Guttenberg added that 10 to 15 percent of hospital patients require, or benefit from, pre-hospital advanced life support. The addition will also benefit students at New York

Methodist Hospital's Paramedic Program. The students, who complete 650 hours of classroom and lab work and 600 hours of clinical rotations before graduation, will have greater opportunities for hands-on experience. "Classroom work is important, but nothing beats real-life clinical experience," said Dr. Guttenberg.

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# Alternative congregation celebrates 10 years

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Ten years ago, Rabbi Ellen Lippmann was working for Mazon — a Jewish hunger-relief effort — when she noticed there was something wrong with many synagogue services. So she decided to do something about it.

"Part of my job was to be in synagogues talking about Mazon," says Lippmann, 51, who was recently ordained after five years at Hebrew Union College. "Unfortunately, mostly what I found was what felt like dead services. People didn't seem to have much connection to the words. But after services, at the Kiddush, people seemed to come to life."

Kiddush is a traditional prayer over wine. After services, congregants at many synagogues gather for the prayer and a sip of wine, often with coffee and cake.

"I thought, when you put coffee and cake in people's hands there's a connection to life. I started to think about having a community where you would eat first and then pray," Lippmann said. "I had several conversations with people searching for a Jewish community and decided I would bring those people together."

This year, Kolot Chayeinu, the congregation she founded, will celebrate its 10th anniversary at the Picnic House in Prospect Park. The Jan. 25 event will feature an address by Tony-award winning playwright Tony Kushner, and Yiddish music by Adrienne Cooper (founder of Mikveh, a women's Klezmer ensemble), and Zalmen Minkov (executive director of Folksbühne Yiddish Theater).

The host committee includes some of Brooklyn's most no-

table rabbis — Andrew Bachman, Samuel Barth, Serge Lippe — as well as many elected officials, such as Councilman David Yassky, Assemblywoman Joan Millman and Rep. Nydia Velázquez, to name a few.

From the very beginning the congregation showed signs of non-traditional leanings, as can be seen by its name.

"Early on we had a lot of discussion about a name. Lisa Segal [Kolot Chayeinu's music coordinator, who along with the rabbi and past presidents Ruth Finkelstein and Philip Supera, will be honored at the celebra-

tion] talked about a voice — 'kol.' We talked about feasting or joy. Then another member said life is not all joy. It's sadness and tragedy. We went away from joy to a sense of life. 'Kol' means life. So we got the name Kolot Chayeinu — 'Voices of Our Lives.'"

For Lisa Zhar, the current president of the congregation, this translates into a place where she and her family feel safe and welcome.

"My husband is not Jewish, not American and not white. My children have mixed ethnicity. Their last name is Mohamed. Kolot

Chayeinu is a place where I can feel disturbed about both Palestinian and Israeli actions and not feel like a disloyal Jew," she said.

There is a wide range of backgrounds and opinions represented in the congregation.

"We have 155 members," said Zhar. "We attract all kinds of people — people who know little about institutional Judaism but have always identified as Jews, as well as people who come from very religious backgrounds and now want to come back to Judaism."

Many congregants attribute the congregation's uniqueness to Lippmann's leadership.

"Through the rabbi we have real adherence to tradition and ritual," says Zhar. "We're certainly a work-in-progress. Through the rabbi's example, we're always asking the questions, 'What more can we do?' 'Is this working?'"

"I'm a follower of the 'rebbe,'" Supera said simply.

From the first meeting of eight people in the Windsor Terrace home of Lippmann and her partner, Kathryn Conroy, the congregation has experienced substantial growth. Friday night dinners, Saturday morning

Torah study and, eventually, Saturday morning services were added. In September 1993, a school opened in a congregant's basement. That year, the first High Holy Day services were held at the Church of the Holy Apollonia in Windsor Terrace.

Seven years ago, the congregation moved into the building that houses the Church of the Gethsemane, at 1012 Eighth Ave. in Park Slope.

"As I was walking down the street on Eighth Avenue, I saw the sign [on the church] that said 'Justice Works Community,' and I thought it would be great to be connected to a place with that name," said Lippmann. "I met with [then pastor] the Rev. Connie Baugh. She was excited by the idea of the church and synagogue sharing space."

These days the question is whether the synagogue is outgrowing its housing.

"Right now we're at a time of change. We're moving toward medium size," she said. "There are new programs that I'm excited about — Saturday morning pre-service learning about prayer and a Sunday afternoon cafe time at a Park Slope cafe, in keeping with our original thinking."

## 160 lmay up for grabs

Patrick Gallaue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Red Hook is buzzing with word that developer Greg O'Connell is making a play for 160 lmay St. that would preserve the building, for which a condominium plan was recently introduced, for industrial use.

And while the developer denies the rumor, it doesn't mean he doesn't have ideas.

"I believe there's a need for food-related businesses," O'Connell said. "One of the fastest-growing businesses in New York City today is food and food processing and I believe that building would be suitable for those types of businesses."

The building is currently pinned in

the center of a fervent industrial-versus-residential battle being pitched in Red Hook between two partisan camps. So pervasive is the issue and so bitter the antagonism between the two sides, that practically every object that arises in the neighborhood, be it an Ikea, a Fairway supermarket or a housing proposal, ends up igniting real estate disputes.

A group of developers are currently seeking to convert the former book warehouse into a 145-unit condo. Designs for the building include maintaining the building's industrial character but adding a jagged-edge glass penthouse to the top, adding three stories to the existing six.

The partnership of developers includes Industry City Associates, owners of Bush Terminal, and Bruce Batkin.

Bob Liff, a spokesman for Batkin, said Batkin had not been approached by O'Connell but that they were willing to discuss any offer ideas with him.

"We would certainly listen to any expression of interest," Liff said. "But having said that we still don't believe this building is equipped for a modern manufacturing facility for the same reasons that it hasn't been used as such for so many years."

During the application for a zoning variance to allow the use to change from manufacturing to residential, the developers adamantly stated that the building was not feasible for manufacturing and that they had been involved in negotiations with a telecommunications company.

Before an agreement could be

reached the telecommunications industry took a nosedive.

The application for the condo was overwhelmingly denied by Community Board 6. The board expressed concerns about granting a variance to a building for residential use while it was surrounded on all sides by manufacturing.

Located about 30 feet from the building is the fence to the Red Hook Marine Terminal, which receives 70 percent of the nation's cocoa, according to Kevin Canino, the vice president of American Stevedoring, which leases the containerport from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The yard frequently stores road salt and pumice, used to make cinchlocks, which Canino feared could blow in the wind, tormenting residents enough to incite lawsuits.

The issue will come before the Board of Standards and Appeals on March 5.

The developers have said the floor plates and columns, placed every 20 to 25 feet, make it all but impossible for a manufacturing use, although O'Connell argues to the contrary.

"This is a great building if you look at it structurally," he said. "It's an all-concrete building, it has eight elevators located strategically throughout the building so you could divide it up for manufacturing."

"What I would do is like a condominium where the businesses would own part of it," he added. "Maybe they could put a cogeneration plant in. That would save one of their biggest operational expenses, which is electricity."

O'Connell estimated that as a food-processing hub the building could employ 400 to 500 people.

Red Hook suffers an estimated 18 percent unemployment rate and, according to census data, 40 percent of residents fall below the poverty line.

## SHUFFLE...

Continued from page 1

son Terrace, Boreum Hill, Downtown Brooklyn, Fort Greene, DUMBO, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and portions of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights, would become District K, with 42-503 students, according to the Department of Education.

School districts 20 and 21, covering Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, Gravesend, Brighton Beach and Coney Island would join with Staten Island to form District 7, the largest of the 10 proposed districts, with 137,186 students.

School Board 15 member Gary Popkin accused the city of using the schools as guinea pigs. "I object to the mayor and chancellor just coming with a brand new, untested governance plan," Popkin said. "It may take 20 years to iron out all the wrinkles and they have no idea if it will be better than the system we have now."

Curriculum would be controlled from the Tweed Courthouse, and would be the same citywide, except in 200 "successful schools," which, the

mayor said, would be allowed to continue to dictate their own curriculum, and set their own budgets.

On Tuesday, Schools Chancellor Joel Klein announced the new uniform curriculum, stressing reading and math skills, which would be adopted citywide. The chancellor made his announcement at PS 172 in Sunset Park, which he identified as one of the city's 200 top-performing schools, which will be exempt from implementing the uniform curriculum.

At Thursday's hearing, Klein and Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott outlined the proposal to replace the community school boards with "parental engagement boards."

These all-parent boards, selected by parents, would primarily play an advisory role. "Community school boards were conceived with the intent of giving a voice to the under-represented. However, they have failed to give voice to those with the most at stake," said Walcott, whose four children have all gone through city public schools.

## SUSPECT...

Continued from page 1

It was an all-too-familiar scene that has been repeated in banks in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights more than half a dozen times in the past two months. In all but one of the bank robberies, the haul did not display a gun. Saturday's robbery was one of the few where the suspect spoke.

Inspector Christopher Rising, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct, told The Papers on Tuesday that the latest robbery appeared to differ from earlier heists.

"Major indicators point to a different individual," Rising said. He declined to specify how the robbery was different, citing the ongoing investigation.

"I can't say definitively how many are linked," Rising said. "Almost all of them were committed with notes, so that links them. But in terms of how many individuals, one, two, three or four, we can't say yet."

The cases that did not involve a displayed firearm are being investigated by the Brooklyn Major Case Squad, a section of the police special investigations division.

A detective for the squad said of Saturday's incident, "Right now, we don't think [the robbery is related]. But that could change."

In a few of the heists the robber made off with a hefty haul, though not all of the robberies have been successful. Hesitation in several of the incidents caused the robber to flee.

## Stolen toxic trailer found near BAM

The Brooklyn Papers


A trailer packed with the volatile chemical sodium amalgam was discovered on a street corner in Fort Greene on Friday. The trailer had been missing since Wednesday night, after it was reported stolen from a garage for C.C. Eastern Inc., a trucking company and a subsidiary of the Michigan-based Central Transport International.

At around 4 am on Jan. 15, workers for C.C. Eastern reported the 53-foot-long, banana-yellow rig stolen from its lot at 271 Norman Ave. in Greenpoint. Shortly after, a tractor was discovered stolen from a lot at 500 Gardner Ave. in Williamsburg. Police believe the thieves used the liberated lorry to tow the rig.

After a search for the stolen goods, the tractor was discovered, independent of the trailer, abandoned in Lower Manhattan at around 1:30 pm Thursday afternoon. The next night, at around 10 pm, the trailer was also found, deserted at South Elliot Place at Hanson Place, just a few blocks from the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Police said all the contents of the truck, which included 10 cases of sodium amalgam contained in metal vessels, were recovered, as well as additional cargo including fabric, motor parts and light bulbs. Police do not believe the theft was terrorism related and said the chemical, which helps street lights glow, is not commonly used in explosives. The chemical does, however, present a significant public hazard since it catches fire if mixed with water and discharges toxic fumes if burned.

—Patrick Gallaue



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# B'KLYN PAPERS

## OPINION

### Corporate national pastime

FOR THOSE of you boomers out there, remember when a professional football game began at 1 p.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m.?

As a young adolescent in Brooklyn, I was part of a family ritual every Sunday afternoon. Being Italian-Americans, we would have a nice pasta dinner around 2 o'clock, then dad, brother and myself would retire to the living room to catch the second half of the Giants game. By 4 p.m., the Furruggio family would be on our way to catch the late-afternoon first feature at our local movie theater (in the '50s, you got two movies for the price of one).

Boy, have things changed! Today's professional football games are really "marathons," lasting three-and-a-half to four hours. The going joke is, "I watched a football game yesterday in between the commercials!" Alas, the corporate sponsors have taken over our game. So much so, that they have even altered the rules of engagement. Did any of you catch the playoff doubleheader on Saturday, Jan. 11? In the old days, when the sport was mostly sport, they played the early game at 1 p.m. Eastern time. The second game followed at 4 p.m. Part of the reason was that in December and January, especially in Eastern and Northern cities, it gets really bitter cold by sunset. Having played football in college, I can attest to that.

No rational, sensible athlete, who cares about his health, wishes to play in temperatures (wind chills) below 30 degrees. All that macho garbage is just that — in bitter cold weather the playing field becomes concrete (especially artificial surfaces) and simple "bats" become deadly. Yet, the yuppies who run television, set the schedule so that the "early game," the Tennessee-Pittsburgh game, began at 4 p.m., which meant that by dusk, that field was cold and those fans really damaged.

Look at how many players got injured, some seriously. All for the purpose of bringing in more "consumers." Fast forward to 8 p.m., the Philly-Atlanta game (in Philadelphia) was just downright brutal. The wind chill was being below 10 degrees, and the fans looked too cold to wave as the camera zoomed about the stadium. The players hurt themselves each time they landed on the frozen tundra or received a pounding! All for a few dollars more.

They even changed the rules in football, to allow for more commercial time. It seems that a few years ago people were complaining about the length of games — you know, two hours of action and two hours of luxury car commercials was getting to be too much, even for Joe Coach Potato. So, in its infinite wisdom, the NFL rules committee helped "speed up" the game — at the EXPENSE of the game! It used to be, since the days of Red Grange, that when a player stepped out of bounds at clock stop would stop until the next snap of the ball. Made sense, part of the allure of the strategy of the game itself. Well, the television vixens, not wishing to give away their precious commercial time, had the game speeded up. Now, up until four or five minutes to go in each half, even if a player steps out of bounds, the clock keeps running.

That made it that much more difficult for teams far behind to come back late in a game, as they are able to do in college games. All for the mighty commercial. Speaking of commercials, this writer recalls the days of "two-and-a-half hour Giants game and off to the movies." In those better times, a one-minute timeout was just that — remember Julie London singing for some cigarette brand and having her song cut short for the next snap from center? A minute was a minute!

When will the fans out there flood the league and the networks shouting "enough is enough!" When will the NFL Players Association (where are you Ed Garry now that we need you?) stop sacrificing its players' health and well-being for fat wallets? They took my game away, and I don't even know if I want it back. Perhaps I'll move to the continent and watch soccer, the world's greatest "football" game. They got it right, two hours and you go to the nearest pub!

Philip A. Furruggio is a baby boomer, Brooklyn born, bred and educated (Brooklyn College '74). He can be reached at brooklynphilly@aol.com.

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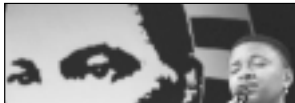
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Song for a king.  
The Brooklyn Papers' Greg Margo

## LETTERS

### Parks and hotels are not a match

To the editor:  
In Patrick Gallahan's article on the planning of Brooklyn Bridge Park ("Planners show Bridge Park," Dec. 23), he mentioned that I am against building a hotel in the park. I feel it is important for the community to know exactly why I have taken this position.

First of all, let me tell you that as an athlete and resident of Brooklyn Heights, I look forward to the completion of the park. However, I feel that we should have a true urban park, not a commercial mall. That may sound harsh, but consider this. The estimates are that the park will cost \$550 million to build. Only \$150 million will come from our government. The remaining \$400 million will come from private developers.

Also, Brooklyn Bridge Park must be self-sustaining. In my view, developers are for the purpose of bringing in more "consumers." Fast forward to 8 p.m., the Philly-Atlanta game (in Philadelphia) was just downright brutal. The wind chill was being below 10 degrees, and the fans looked too cold to wave as the camera zoomed about the stadium. The players hurt themselves each time they landed on the frozen tundra or received a pounding! All for a few dollars more.

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When will the fans out there flood the league and the networks shouting "enough is enough!" When will the NFL Players Association (where are you Ed Garry now that we need you?) stop sacrificing its players' health and well-being for fat wallets? They took my game away, and I don't even know if I want it back. Perhaps I'll move to the continent and watch soccer, the world's greatest "football" game. They got it right, two hours and you go to the nearest pub!

Philip A. Furruggio is a baby boomer, Brooklyn born, bred and educated (Brooklyn College '74). He can be reached at brooklynphilly@aol.com.

## HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

### Tinseltown rebellion in B'klyn

GENERALLY, MOVIES are associated with the brown hills of California and its sign on them that once read "HOLLYWOODLAND." But the origins and early development of the motion picture industry started right here in Brooklyn.

Of course, making movies was not an industry exclusive to Brooklyn. Experimenters also worked in Manhattan, the Bronx and in a laboratory in New Jersey run by Thomas Edison. But the first commercial film shot in New York was filmed by Charles E. Chiniquin on a rooftop on St. Marks Place in 1894. From there, it was a straight flight to the Academy Awards.

Brooklyn was an ideal location for filmmaking in the early 20th century. It had people and city sites, woods and farms, railroads, mountains and a beach. And in 1905 it had a studio, Viagrath, in the wilds of Midwood.

Viagrath's studio, at today's Avenue M and East 166 Street had a resident acting troupe headed by John Bunny, Clara Bow, Jack Haley and several great hourly hires: Cecil B. DeMille, Rudolph Valentino and Lev Trotsky.

Outside the studio, actors performed on Kings Highway, Flatbush Avenue and the sands of Coney Island. In the workshops, they recruited a newspaper cartoonist, Winsor McCay, from his studio in New York City. Viagrath's studio, at today's Avenue M and East 166 Street had a resident acting troupe headed by John Bunny, Clara Bow, Jack Haley and several great hourly hires: Cecil B. DeMille, Rudolph Valentino and Lev Trotsky.

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## SNOWHIKE kills middle class

ALAN S. CHARTOCK

RAISING TUITION at the State University of New York is a move fraught with danger for the Patanki administration. The handpicked Patanki-ties on the SUNY board of trustees have moved to raise tuition at the university by an almost unbelievable 41 percent.

Tuition will increase by \$1,400 per student to \$4,800 a year, which is more than many middle-class parents can afford, especially when you consider that the tuition is only the beginning. Then comes room and board, and many, if not most, of these parents will be faced with humongous real estate property tax hikes as well, if Mayor Mike Bloomberg gets his way, with increased property taxes.

The Patanki-ties counter that the State University hasn't raised its rates for years, that private colleges cost a lot more money; and that the poorest students will be taken care of by special scholarship programs like TAP (the Tuition Assistance Program). There is a certain irony here since it is Patanki who, above all, has recognized that the key to electing more of these elected politicians who want to private schools there lies a preference to help out their alma matters by hurting the State University.

From Manhattan to Buffalo, young people have received a wonderful education because of the state and city colleges. To his credit, the governor, Speaker Sheldon Silver has said that a tuition raise isn't going to happen. I hope he's right. This is the Democratic Party at its best.

It was a Nelson Rockefeller, who had a vision of a great State University. He built it, and he knew what he was doing. In his great wisdom, he put a unit of that university in the poorest, most crowded district in the State University campus, among the largest employers. A tough dilemma for these folks to vote against the interests of middle-class parents who vote with them, and can just as easily vote them out.

Let's hope that for once, someone does something for both reasons.

Alan S. Chartock is the executive publisher of The Legislative Gazette, a weekly newspaper about New York government.

When I went to the City University Hunter College, then and there a great institution, the tuition was zero. The city's philosophy about education was the best in the colleges as in the elementary schools. In order to offer quality of education on city poles, traffic devices and street signs illustrate their hypocrisy.

Many members of the New York City Council claim to be friends of the environment, yet during every election, campaign volunteers put up thousands of illegal campaign posters. Did you ever see any of their campaign volunteers removing the same political poster litter after Primary or Election Day?

— Larry Penner, Long Island

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# B'KLYN PAPERS

## OPINION

### Corporate national pastime

FOR THOSE of you boomers out there, remember when a professional football game began at 1 p.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m.?

As a young adolescent in Brooklyn, I was part of a family ritual every Sunday afternoon. Being Italian-American, we would have a nice pasta dinner around 2 o'clock, then dad, brother and myself would retire to the living room to catch the second half of the Giants game. By 4 p.m., the Farnuccio family would be on our way to catch the late-afternoon movie first feature at our local movie theater (in the '50s, you got two movies for the price of one).

Boy, have things changed! Today's professional football games are really "marathons," lasting three-and-a-half to four hours. The going joke is, "I watched a football game yesterday in between the commercials!" Alas, the corporate sponsors have taken over our game. So much so, that they have even altered the rules of engagement. Did any of you catch the playoff doubleheader on Saturday, Jan. 11? In the old days, when the sport was still mostly sport, they played the early playoff game at 1 p.m. Eastern time. The second game followed at 4 p.m. Part of the reason was that in December and January, especially in Eastern and northern cities, it gets really bitter cold by sunset. Having played football in college, I can attest to that.

No rational, sensible athlete, who cares about his health, wishes to play in temperatures (wind chills) below 30 degrees. All that macho baggage is just that — in bitter cold weather the playing field becomes concrete (especially artificial surfaces) and simple "bats" become deadly. Yet, the yuppies who run television, set the schedule so that the "early game," the Tennessee-Pittsburgh game, began at 4 p.m., which meant that by dusk, that field was cold and those hits really damaged.

Look at how many players got injured, some seriously. All for the purpose of bringing in more "consumers." Fast forward to 8 p.m., the Philly-Atlanta game (in Philadelphia, not just downstate brutal. The wind chill must have been below 10 degrees, and the fans looked too cold to wave as the camera zoomed about the stands. Imagine how the players must have felt when they landed on the frozen tundra or received a pounding? All for a few dollars more.

They even changed the rules in football, to allow for more commercial time. It seems that a few years ago people were complaining about the length of games — you know, two hours of action and two hours of luxury car commercials was getting to be too much, even for Joe Coach Potato. So, in its infinite wisdom, the NFL rules committee helped "speed up" the game — at the EXPENSE of the game! It used to be, since the days of Red Grange, that when a player stepped out of bounds the clock would stop until the next snap of the ball. Made sense, part of the allure of the strategy of the game itself. Well, the television yuppies decided to give away their precious commercial time, the game speeded up. Now, up until four or five minutes to go in each half, even if a player steps out of bounds, the clock keeps running.

That made it that much more difficult for teams far behind to come back late in a game, as they are able to do in college games. All for the mighty commercial. Speaking of commercials, this writer recalls the days of two-and-a-half hour Giants game and off to the movies. In those better times, a one-minute timeout was just that — remember Julie London singing for some cigarette brand and having her song cut short for the next snap from center? A minute was a minute!

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Philip A. Farnuccio is a baby boomer, Brooklyn born, bred and educated (Brooklyn College '74). He can be reached at brooklynphilly@aol.com.

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## LETTERS

### Bloomie should focus on classes

I was very interested in reading your article regarding Mayor Bloomberg's school reform ("Mayor dooms districts," January 20). However, I didn't see anything mentioned that will make that much of a difference in my children's classrooms to enhance their learning.

When I hear Mayor Bloomberg say he would like to get the class size down from 32 students to 28, I realize that he really doesn't care. He's just saying that to the public. In the classroom, for example, a typical class size in our school is 38 to 40 students, squeezed into a room with four computers that are very rarely used — a room meant to hold 50 students at the most.

When he talks curriculum, my only wish is that the teacher would be allowed to use textbooks in the classroom again and promote expository reading, i.e., social studies and science.

Forget the new theory of group work. It doesn't work. Not in a class of 30. It's only promiscuous socialization. The kids know there's not enough time for the teacher to get around to all the groups to check on their progress. Children are passed on to the next year without grade-levels because there is not enough time in the new class coming up. A child can fool around and disrupt an entire class all year, fail the course, and as long as he or she shows up every day for summer school, whether he or she passes the test or not, the child will be promoted. The children and teachers have figured this out. The Board of Education administrators have not.

If a teacher has 40 students, five classes, that's 200 students he's responsible for. If he gives homework once a week of five questions, that's 1,000 answers he should grade. I know for certain, my child's homework is not checked because the same question he got wrong in his science homework was the same question he got wrong on the test. There's not enough time in a day for a teacher to save everyone. It is not the teacher's fault, it's the

— *Jack La Torre, Bay Ridge*

### Right on gays

I would like to commend former state Sen. Vincent Gentile on his stance on the Gay and Lesbian bill that recently passed in Albany ("Gentile: 'no' to gay bill," Dec. 30).

While I don't agree with his vote, politicians are supposed to listen to their constituents, regardless of their own personal feelings. He voted his constituents' way. Hopefully others will learn from you and listen to the people they represent!

— *Diane Hunt, Bay Ridge*

## HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

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Outside the studio, actors performed on Kings Highway, Flatbush Avenue and the sands of Coney Island. In the workshop, they recruited a newspaper cartoonist, Winsor McCoy, from his truck in the minds of Topsy and Beulah. And in the streets, they recruited Gertrude the Dinosaur, one of film's first animations, "Little Nemo" and "Buster Brown."

Soon other companies invaded the Brooklyn territory, namely, Edison and American Mutoscope and Biograph. Edison started with the Brooklyn Bridge and

## CAPITOL CONNECTION

### Shrike kills middle class

#### ALAN S. CHARTOCK

RAISING TUITION at the State University of New York is a move fraught with danger for the Pataki administration. The handpicked Pataki-ites on the SUNY board of trustees have moved to raise tuition at the university by an almost unbelievable 41 percent.

Tuition will increase by \$1,400 per student to \$4,800 a year, which is more than many middle-class parents can afford, especially when you consider that the tuition is only the beginning. Then comes room and board and many, if not most, of these parents will be faced with humongous real estate property tax hikes as well, maybe, if Mayor Mike Bloomberg gets his way, with increased school taxes.

The Pataki-ites counter that the State University hasn't raised its rates for years, that private colleges cost a lot more money; and that the poorest students will be taken care of by special scholarship programs like TAP (the Tuition Assistance Program). There is a certain truth here since it is Pataki who, above all, has recognized that the key to electing to the state legislature is the middle class. Without that demographic, you can't win in New York. And if you can't win with middle class votes, you can't give back taxes to the rich.

You can be sure that this budget will slash and burn programs for the mentally ill, the incarcerated, the homeless, and the poor. And if you can't win with middle class votes, you can't give back taxes to the rich. And if you can't win with middle class votes, you can't give back taxes to the rich. And if you can't win with middle class votes, you can't give back taxes to the rich.

But when you start up with middle-class folks who are just trying to educate their children, you are playing with political fire in the same way that you play with fire when you attempt to take control of their apartments. All of a sudden, those quiet, apathetic voters start to roar.

When I went to the City University Hunter College, there was a great inscription on the wall, the tuition was zero. The city's philosophy about education was the same in that institution, the tuition was zero. The city's philosophy about education was the same in that institution, the tuition was zero.

Every time the state faces a fiscal crisis, whether under that fraud, the faux-Democrat

I remember political activists leading the student body in a strike when they imposed a \$24 fee on the students. They said then, and they were right, "This is the beginning of the end."

Alan S. Chartock is the executive director of The Legislative Gazette, a weekly newspaper about New York government.

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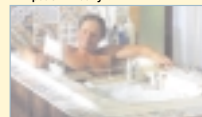
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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • January 27, 2003

# Miller's time

Makeover for one of boro's oldest diners

By Tina Barry

for The Brooklyn Papers

Miller's Famous Restaurant in Borough Park has undergone a radical facelift. Joe Miller, son of Michael "Mike" Miller (the second owner of Miller's Famous Restaurant) and the grandson of Chris Miller (originally Christopher Mylonopoulos of Cypress), the restaurant's founder, is the new co-owner. With John Odorisio, a patron of Miller's since childhood and a butcher with 20 years of meat-cutting experience, the two transformed the aging restaurant, a neighborhood institution since 1947, into a gleaming replica of a 1950s diner.

"I was adamant that the new design should stand out from other diners," says Miller.

It does. Surrounded by stores whose facades were new 30 years ago, the refurbished restaurant, with its shining red-and-white tiled exterior edged in chrome, looks more like something you'd see along Route 66 than a diner nestled under the shadow of the old El train track.

"Even the design of the tiles on the wall are a replica of a subway station," says Miller, who sketched his ideas on a napkin before consulting an architect.

To expand the diner's seating capacity from 35 to 75, Miller designed two replica subway cars and had them built on site and attached to the outside of the diner. Patrons can now enjoy a hamburger, comfortably seated in one of the deep, red vinyl booths, while looking out the train's window.

Continuing the subway motif, a miniature train runs along a track that hangs directly over the funky, '50s-style chrome counter.

"We want people to be reminded of a Manhattan restaurant," Miller says of the renovation, then adds, "but we don't have Manhattan prices. Two guys can eat here like kings. We give a lot of food. That's what we're known for."

Chef Miller will do the cooking following the recipes handed down from his father and grandfather. His four-course dinner special, served each evening, features a fruit cup or cup of soup du jour, an entree of prime roast sirloin, turkey, ham or brisket served with a potato and vegetable, coffee or tea and Jell-O or rice pudding—all for \$8.95.

"Never leave the restaurant hungry" was my grandmother Electro's motto, and it's our motto as well," Miller adds.

Serving quality cooking in enormous portions is a practice Miller intends to continue.

"Everything here is homemade. We make our own corned beef, our own brisket. We cook our own roast beef, our own fresh ham and our own turkey. When someone orders a turkey sandwich, I'm cutting them turkey that I roasted that morning. Nothing is pre-made!" Miller says with pride.



New look for old friend: (Top) The newly renovated Miller's Famous Restaurant at New Utrecht Avenue and 56th Street. (Above) The restaurant before its makeover. (Right) Owner-chef Joe Miller's cherry-lime Rickey.

He hopes that Miller's Famous Restaurant will be considered a destination for hamburger aficionados the way Nathan's famous hot dog lovers to Coney Island.

"We closed [in June 2002] with an 8-ounce burger, and that's a pretty nice size. Now we have the biggest with our 9-ounce burger, and it's delicious — juicy and so fresh," he says.

"Special bragging rights apply to the diner's Greek salad."

"We make a Greek salad like nobody else," says Miller. "We use hand-boiled eggs but no anchovies. We put in the eggs, and the feta cheese, and the oil and vinegar and the olives, and we turn the salad ourselves. We mix it together like they do in Greece, in the old town. We are famous for our Greek salads."

Disappointing customers who might compare him unfavorably to his predecessors isn't an option for Miller.

"People come in here, and they see a young kid — I'm 32 years old," explains Miller. "And if they say, 'Oh, the kid made it all fancy but the food stinks,' then

I have no business. I'm feeding people who my grandparents served 50 years ago."

As if on cue, an older couple, with unmistakable Brooklyn accents, walks in. "Hey, Hey Joey," they say. "Whazzy Jimmy Bow's picture?"

"That's hah brotha," says the man pointing to his wife.

"Yeah," she says, "Jimmy was the baltendah at the El-al-got. Yaw fatha had thah pictuash hangin' behin' the counta for a thousan' yeas."

Miller promises to re-hang Jimmy Bow's picture before the diner's Jan. 18 opening. "If God is willing."

The couple leaves happy.

"This is perfect!" says Miller. "This is not staged! If you stay here all day, you'll see people dropping in saying, 'I remember your grandmother!' They tell me, 'When I came to America we couldn't afford to eat. Your grandmother used to give us french fries with cheese and a lime Rickey.' [The lime Rickey is still on the menu.] She never let anyone leave without being fed."

"Tell Tina how long you've been coming here," Miller asks Al, the diner's fruit man, who wanders in to say hello to Mike and "the boys."

"Oh," says Al. "Like, 40 years! I knew



Joe Miller, owner-chef, holds a cherry-lime Rickey.

his grandparents when his father was this big." He holds his hand near his knee.

Patrons who remember the original Miller's, which opened in 1947 on 13th Avenue at New Utrecht Avenue, and have seen the restaurant evolve since 1957 in its present location on the corner of New Utrecht Avenue and 56th Street, needn't worry about a rocky transition. After 36 years of 18-hour days, the still youthful Mike Miller has retired, but he plans to continue as a consultant, whenever "the boys" need him, and adds, "Joey and John are both young and they have a lot of incentive. The diner will be excellent."

When I visited, the kitchen was not yet open, so instead of food, Miller searched for gifts for "The train ride back home." He gave me a large polo shirt with the Famous Miller's logo — a train — on its back; a wooden massager in the shape of a bird; a plastic key chain; and a denim, snap-bracelet for my daughter.

"You have to leave with something," he says, "so you don't forget us."

## DINING



## Pre-show eats

Four-star, wanderkind chef Thomas Ferlesch (pictured), most recently of Cafe des Artistes and before that Vienna 79, has opened his first restaurant, Thomas Beisl, across Lafayette Avenue from the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

"In Vienna," says Ferlesch, "bistros serve the young and the old, intellectuals and students, plumbers, doctors, artists, everyone. It makes a wonderful atmosphere." It is just that "some one, come all" spirit that Ferlesch hopes his Thomas Beisl (beisl means bistro) will be to the Fort Greene neighborhood.

Ferlesch did most of the renovation himself, stripping and staining antique chairs that he picked up on Atlantic Avenue. The lighting is moody and romantic with amber-tinted sconces and candles on the tables.

Thomas Beisl's location — there's BAM of course, Mark Morris' dance studio is up the street, and Urban Glass, a glass-blowing studio, is a few blocks away — all but ensures an art-loving crowd. Plan on seeing black-clad diners eating velvety, eggplant terrine topped with goat cheese or a seafood salad with scallops, parsley and jalapenos. Wiener schnitzel with cucumber salad and parsley potatoes, and beef goulash made with braised beef cheeks and served with spaetzle, are among the entrees.

No one skips dessert in a Viennese restaurant. (What do you think inspired the Viennese dessert table at all those Bar Mitzvahs?) There's palatschinken, crepes stuffed with apricot jam or chocolate hazelnut cream, and a Linzertorte. Ask for the torte mit schlag — that's with whipped cream.

Thomas Beisl (25 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street) accepts American Express. Entrees: \$13-\$16. The restaurant is open daily, from noon to midnight, and serves brunch Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 am to 4 pm. For reservations, call (718) 222-5800.

— Tina Barry

## MUSIC

## Pied piper

Omni Ensemble's flutist broadens audience for eclectic classical music

By Kevin Filipksi

for The Brooklyn Papers

"For our 20th anniversary season, we wanted to do music that we liked," explains flutist David Wechsler, a native of Midwood and founder of the Omni Ensemble, which has brought chamber music of all stripes to enthusiastic Brooklyn audiences for two decades.

Omni Ensemble's upcoming concert, Feb. 1 at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, pits two giants of the 18th and early 19th centuries — Bach and Beethoven — with a triumvirate of French composers from the 20th century — Claude Debussy, Albert Roussel and Jacques Ibert.

The eclectic program is par for the course for the ensemble, as Wechsler says, "One of the reasons I started this group to begin with is that there are certain contemporary and 20th-century music that people would want to hear." Along with Wechsler, the Omni Ensemble includes cellist Sara Wollan — who's been with the group for four seasons, and pianist Jim Labit, a composer who joined the ensemble at the beginning of last season.

Wechsler and pianist John Creek started the group in 1983.

Pairing weighty works by two acknowledged masters with lesser-known but no less forceful music by three 20th-century Frenchmen is typical of the ensemble's programming method: its first concert this season included works by Ravel and Richard Strauss alongside Norman Dello Joio's 1948 Trio and pianist Labit's own Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano.

Wechsler enjoys finding works that fit the players' sensibilities, including the great artists for this concert, violist Sam Kephart and harpist Laura Sherman.

"The Bach G-minor sonata (originally for flute and harpsichord) is done with a transcription for harp," he notes. "Since the pedaled harp is relatively recent invention — it came into use in the mid-19th century — there's no baroque music written specifically for it."

Also being performed in a transcription for harp is Beethoven's

See OMNI on page GO 4



Be our guest: Harpist Laura Sherman is one of the guest artists performing with the Omni Ensemble on Feb. 1.

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Sonata no. 3 in B minor, op. 58 . . . . . Frédéric Chopin  
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Five Foxrots . . . . . George Gershwin  
Rhapsody in Blue . . . . . George Gershwin

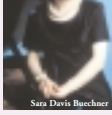
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# Play it again, Sam

Mendes directs, and Emily Watson stars in top-notch double-bill at BAM Harvey

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Papers

On Saturday night, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater, theatergoers gazed stary-eyed at actors Harvey Keitel, Bernadette Peters, Kate Winslet, Frances McDormand and Nathan Lane. And they were just in the audience.

The giants of the Great White Way came out for the Donmar Warehouse production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Both "Twelfth Night" and Donmar's "Uncle Vanya" are directed by Sam Mendes ("Cabaret," "American Beauty"), and his efforts were met with standing ovations and three curtain calls each—and for good reason.

Both "Twelfth Night" and "Uncle Vanya" will be presented in repertory at BAM through March 9. (On six Saturdays it will be possible to see both "Twelfth Night" and "Uncle Vanya" with a matinee and evening performance.) The comic "Twelfth Night," however, can't help but seem less important than the powerfully affecting "Uncle Vanya."

physically, embodying the comedy of a Charlie Chaplin or Jerry Lewis.

Selma Cadell's metamorphosis from disapproving mother of Uncle Vanya to the saucy gentlewoman Maria in "Twelfth Night" has an equally jaw-dropping effect.

Of the two plays, Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" (newly updated by Brian Friel) is especially delightful—albeit in a mournful way. The workaday world of Uncle Vanya's estate is turned on its ear by the arrival of the professor and his young wife, Yelena, played by Helen McCrory.

Even the train of Yelena's skirt is a delight, McCrory.

The aptly named Mark Strong gives the kind of a strut that Cleo does should also go to costume design and the Donmar's Mark Thompson, when McCrory, as Olivia, comes to seduce—Ce-

isario, the gasping in the audience is as much for her hold gesture as it is for the exquisite art de down she wears so well.)

The aptly named Mark Strong gives a commanding performance as Dr. Mikhail Astrov in "Uncle Vanya." It is an impeccable exhibition of barely restrained vigor, lust (for Yelena) and self-destruction, all the while managing to create a sexy, cool confidence.



Top-notch cast: Simon Russell Beale (left) in the title role of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," and Emily Watson as Viola, disguised as Cesario, in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."



Top-notch cast: Simon Russell Beale (left) in the title role of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," and Emily Watson as Viola, disguised as Cesario, in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

ances of Simon Russell Beale, as Uncle Vanya, and Emily Watson, as his workhorse niece Sonya, that break the audience's heart. They transform the play's power.

Watson has flabbergasted audiences with her riveting portrayals of unusual women, especially in her 1996 film debut—Oscar nominated—as Bess McNeill in Lant Vior's "Breaking the Waves." Watson received another Oscar nomination for "Hilary and Jackie," and praise for her roles in "Gosford Park" and last year's "Punch-Drunk Love."

When in the role of the lonely Sonya in "Uncle Vanya," after rejection upon rejection, she finally laments that even schoolchildren have called her "Squidgy Sonya."—his reviewer was shamelessly unable to shut off the waterworks.

Anthony Ward's set design provides an earth-bound background of tall, wavy grasses for "Uncle Vanya" beyond its rustic dining room, and he pines for her on the dining room table and when he literally grovels at her feet.

"Twelfth Night" is a different animal altogether—it is light-hearted, although in a subdued way—with heavenly shrouded women in mourning clothes and an ocean of flickering

candles behind them.

Beale is again excellent, this time as the supercilious, puritanical servant Malvolio with his grand ambition of a union with his mistress, Olivia. When his love for Olivia is mistaken for madness, his anguished pleas for help—even while hidden behind a mask and straitjacket—

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**Rhythm & BAM** is made possible by a grant from:  
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**WHERE TO GO**  
compiled by **Nathan Rosenblatt**

**THURS, JAN 23**

**HEALTH LECTURE:** Lutherman Medical Center offers a talk on cardiac and lung diseases, 2:30 pm, 1000 Shore Road, (718) 630-9230. Free.

**COMMUNITY MEETING:** Transportation Committee of Community Board 6. Discussion of planned subway station booth changes, 6:30 pm, St. Mary's Residence, 41 First St. (718) 645-3027. Free.

**FILM AND FUNDRAISER:** Brooklyn Ethical Culture Society. "Brooklyn's Brothers and Sisters: a documentary about the lives of Arab and South Asian families in the United States after beginning of immigration detention following Sept. 11," 7 pm, 53 Prospect Park West, (718) 482-3157. Free.

**WINE TASTING:** A Perfect Setting hosts a session on wines from France and New Zealand, 5:00 pm, 152 Atlantic Ave., (718) 222-1888.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** Beatrice Cook, author of "Nude Unleashed" and "Chasing Alice," 7 pm, 106 Court St. (718) 244-4996. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** chamber music program of works by Debussy, Schumann, Stravinsky and Schubert, 7:30 pm, Park Slope Food Coop, 282 Union St. (718) 499-2831. Free.

**LECTURE:** Stefano Carboni, associate curator, department of Islamic art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, presents slide lecture, 7:30 pm, PS 321, 180 Seventh Ave. (718) 262-8475. Free.

**LOW BAR:** Playwright John Landman gives a staged reading, 8 pm, 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1106. Free.

**GALAPAGOS CAFE:** Shakespeare, Teenage Prayers and Qatiz perform, 8:15 pm, 70 North Sixth St. (718) 384-4356.

**BARNES BAR:** presents a "Summer Jam," 9 pm, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**RED ROOM LOUNGE:** presents saxophonist Andy Parsons, 55 cover, 9 and 10:30 pm, 444 Court St. (718) 875-1981.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Don't Call Us..." a musical revue, 8 pm, See Sat.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "The Golden Boy," 8 pm, See Sat.

**BROOKLYN LYCEUM:** presents "31 Bond," 8 pm, See Sat.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Twelfth Night," 7:30 pm, See Sat.

**FRI, JAN 24**

**AUTHOR TALK:** Ken Blanchard is guest speaker at Power of One Productions. He talks about his book "One Minute Apology," 9 pm, Brooklyn Bridge Marriott, 333 Adams St. Call for ticket information, (718) 246-7000.

**SUPPORT:** Metropolitan Medical Center hosts a group for those who have been affected by breast cancer, 9:30 to 11 am. Registration necessary, Maimonides Hematology, 6223 Seventh Ave. (718) 283-0925. Free.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Beth Israel Kings Highway, 11 am to 4:30 pm, 3201 Kings Highway, (800) 633-RBCD.

**DEDICATION CEREMONY:** Board of Trustees and Headmaster, Adolph Academy dedicate the Adolph Gallery's new art exhibit featuring works of Emotions, 7 pm, 8515 Ridge Road, (718) 284-3308. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** chamber music program of works by Debussy, Schumann, Stravinsky and Schubert, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 626-2083.

**OVERNIGHT ZOO EVENT:** Prospect Park Zoo hosts "Winter Warmth" event. Appropriate for ages 8 to 11, \$45, \$55 members, 7:30 pm to 1 am Saturday. Call to pre-register, (718) 399-7339.

**VERTICAL PLAYERS:** The Dwarf, a comic opera, \$20, 8 pm, 219 Court St. (718) 259-2696.

**GOOD COFFEEHOUSE:** Second annual Night of Magic features a line-up of magicians including The Magic Melodians, Tokova and Marco Monteverdi, \$10 per ticket, 8 pm, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West, (718) 748-2972.

**KIDS CAFE:** Dancewave Inc. presents its ninth annual Kids Cafe Festival, a performance of dance, music and theater. Opening benefit performance features the Kids Company premiere of choreographer Donald Byrd's "Memories of Bittersweet Lives," \$100, 8 pm, Brooklyn Music School, 126 St. Marks St. (718) 622-2548.

**BARNES BAR:** Harlem Medicine blues band plays Eastern European gypsy music, 9 pm, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**TWO BOOTS:** Blues with Gene Ambert, 10 pm, No cover, 114 Essex St. (718) 486-3553.

**HALCYON CAFE:** Music by a variety of groups, \$5, 21+ 10 pm.

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12pm-3:30pm  
Peter Pucco teaches Sport Reptery  
Workshop fee: \$12  
Information/To register: 718-252-4986



# Tiny dancers

Kids Cafe Fest features 'Pucci: Sport' and new work by Byrd

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Dancers aren't born but nurtured, often starting from a very early age. And that's exactly what Diane Jacobowitz has been doing—with a little help from a roster of celebrity choreographers—for nine years with Kids Cafe Festival.

The festival is produced by Dance-ware, an organization Jacobowitz founded in 1979 to produce arts events, festivals and educational workshops for children and young adults. This year's Kids Cafe Festival, at the Brooklyn Music School and Playhouse, included dance and sport workshops on Jan. 19, taught by the Peter Pucci Plus Dancers, a modern dance troupe whose namesake founder is a former all-American athlete and member of the modern dance group Phobias.

There will be an opening night benefit concert on Jan. 24, featuring Jacobowitz's own Kids Company in the world premiere of "Memories of Bitter-sweet Lives," a newly commissioned work created by modern dance

## DANCE

"Kids Cafe Festival 2003" will be held at the Brooklyn Music School and Playhouse, 120 St. Felix St., at Lafayette Avenue, in Fort Greene. The benefit concert, featuring "Memories of Bitter-sweet Lives" by Donald Byrd, is at 8 pm on Jan. 24. Tickets are \$100.

Festival performances of "Pucci: Sport" are at 3 pm on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26. Tickets are \$10 for children, \$15 for adults. For more information about the schedule, call (718) 522-4976. To make reservations for the festival performance or the benefit concert call (718) 622-2548 or visit [www.virtuosos.com](http://www.virtuosos.com) (NYC event) on the Web.

choreographer Donald Byrd. Kids Company has been working on the piece for an intensive 10-week rehearsal period with Byrd and his assistants.

The Peter Pucci Plus Dancers will also host Kids Cafe Festival performances and perform excerpts from "Pucci: Sport" on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26 at 3 pm. Kids participating in the workshops will perform in the part called "Basketball." And Nana Simopolous,

another festival host, will perform her own Greek and Middle Eastern-influenced music at the festival.

Other festival performance highlights include the Shomandosh Contemporary Dance Theater and Gestures Ensemble from the Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Harlem.

Jacobowitz's Kids Company started in 2000 with "kids who really wanted to study dance more seriously," she says. Teenagers from throughout the city, who make it through an audition process, benefit from the program's professional environment that both challenges and encourages.

Using space in the Berkeley Carroll School in Park Slope and the Mark Morris studio in Fort Greene, the teenagers work with internationally known American choreographers like Twyla Tharp, David Dorfman, Doug Varone and Bill T. Jones. This spring Kids Company will again work with Morris, who since his group's move to Fort Greene, has been closely involved with the company, creating original pieces just for them.

Noah Weiss, a junior at Stuyvesant High School, has been with the company since his group's first performance. "Being a part of a company and not in a class makes me feel that what I'm doing is more important. You don't only have an obligation to yourself, but also to everyone else in the company. There's a sense of camaraderie," he told GO Brooklyn.

Noah, who lives in Park Slope, has danced in pieces by Mark Morris, David Dorfman and Donald Byrd.

"This gives me an opportunity to have a challenge in dance because we're working with professional choreographers and doing professional pieces," he said.

In December, Noah performed with Kids Company at the Dancers Responding to AIDS benefit concert at the St. Marks in the Bowery Church, and at a Christmas concert at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center.

These kinds of events help Noah "get a taste of what it might be like to be a professional dancer," and And he's excited, he says because "I get to share months of work with an audience, and I get a feeling of accomplishment."

Noah is not sure whether he wants to be a professional dancer, but he does know that dance will always be a big part of his life. He is one of a group of 20 youths, choreographer-dancer Jacobowitz is working with this year.

"I've worked with kids my whole life," she says. "I became a mother in the early '90s. I got the idea then of focusing on kids. It's an important focus now. It's close to my heart."

The festival gives youngsters in Kids Company and throughout the city and beyond the opportunity to learn, to share and to show off. And it gives proud parents the chance to see their kids at their most enthusiastic and graceful.

## PERFORMANCES

**LIBRARY EVENT:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, observes Chinese New Year and celebrates "Year of the Sheep" with performances and programs. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**BROOKLYN LYCEUM** presents "31 Bands," a play based on a real 1980s party house in Virginia. \$40. \$15 students and seniors. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 866-8000.

**THEATER:** XO Projects and Theater present "Craw," a play about four people crawling each other and the need to break free. \$15, \$10 students, 3 and 7-15 pm. Old American Can Factory, Third Street and Third Avenue. (718) 608-6336.

**BARGE MUSIC:** chamber music program of works by Gershwin, Beethoven, Mozart, Dvorak and Debussy. \$35, \$20 pm. Also free midday concert at 1 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music

presents Donmar Warehouse's production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." \$75, \$55, \$30. 2 pm. Also "Black Veil." \$35, \$30, \$20. 7 pm. Harvey Theater, 551 Fulton St. (718) 636-4111.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Don't Call Us," a musical revue. \$15, \$12 children 12 and younger and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**CONCERT:** Frederick Ivins conducts a concert of works by Mozart, Albin, senior songs by Morley, Elgar, Rutter, Thompson and others. \$5 donation. 8 pm. All Saints Church, Seventh Avenue and Seventh Street. (718) 636-1492.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents Clifford Odets' drama "The Golden Boy." \$15. 8 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 390-7163.

**ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK:** Music by a variety of groups. \$5. 6 pm. 409 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

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## LIST YOUR EVENT...

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**By:** Performers, bands, rants, cabaret acts, notes, drink and torture one another. In small ways. \$12-9 pm. 146 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 388-2251.

**ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK:** Kitz Kitz party. \$5-8 pm. 409 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

**BARBERS BAR:** evening of traditional and non-traditional Scottish music in celebration of Robert Burns' birthday. 7 pm. 374 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**TWO BOOTS:** presents blues with Night Wiggas. 10 pm. No cover.

**514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.** **CONCERT:** Cleanse! performs classic rock. 10:30 pm. Kelly's Tavern, 922 Fourth Ave. (718) 745-9546. Free.

**CHILDREN:** **AQUARIUM:** Kids 12 and 18 are invited to participate in "So You Want to Be a Marine: Marine Researcher." Learn what it's like to be a scientist from a marine mammal researcher. \$30. \$20 members. 10 am to 1 pm. New York Aquarium, West End Street at Surf Avenue. (718) 265-1514.

**STORY HOUR:** Classic Ragny Ann stories, told by Ragny Ann. 11 am. Barnes and Noble, 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

**PUPPETWORKS:** "The Prince and The Magic Flute." \$6. \$7 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-3391.

**BASEBALL REGISTRATION:** 78th Precinct Youth Council hosts registration for spring season. \$95. 1 to 5 pm. P-321, Seventh Avenue between First and Second streets. (718) 246-6691.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** UM: a workshop. "Clarett Morgan and the Gas Mask." Learn how the first gas mask was used. \$4. 1:30 and 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**CONCERT:** Plymouth Church presents Dan Zanes in a musical performance. 3 pm. Call for ticket information. 75 Hicks St. (718) 624-4743.

**KIDS CAFE:** Danceware Inc. presents its ninth annual Kids Cafe Festival, a performance of dance, music and theater hosted by Peter Pucci Plus Dancers and World Music of Nana. \$15, \$10 children. 3 pm. Brooklyn Music School, 120 St. Felix St. (718) 622-2548.

**BEHIND THE SCENES:** Brooklyn Museum of Art invites you to discover real and imaginary adventures that take place in the quietest corners of the museum. \$6, free for children.

12 and younger and museum members. 4 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

## OTHER

**THEATER:** The Brooklyn Community Council sponsor a trip to Hurlerston Hills Playhouse. Show "Cowboy Cafe." \$60 includes transportation, lunch and show. 7:30 am to 5 pm. (718) 934-2952.

**OPEN STUDIO:** Small Mallet Artist Studio Program presents works by its 2002 Studio Artists. Noon to 5 pm. Artist reception from 6 to 8 pm. 200 Washington St. (718) 422-0989. Free.

**ADOPTION WORKSHOP:** Latin America Parents Association of New York hosts a talk covering documentation preparation, selecting a source, adoption requirements. 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Our Lady of Grace Church, 100 West 11th Street. (718) 236-8699. Free.

**AFRICAN WORKSHOP:** The Brooklyn Museum of Art offers a workshop on "Fencing and Sewing Quilts." Bring scrap fabric, thread and needles. 2 to 5 pm. Call for fee information and pre-registration. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 501-4937.

**RECEPTION:** The Skylight Gallery hosts a reception for "The Fable of the Magpie." Media exhibit. 4 to 7 pm. 1368 Fulton St. (718) 636-6999. Free.

**INDIGO CAFE:** Montrose Greenwood reads her book, "Thieving What Matters." 7 to 8:30 pm. 672 Fulton St. (718) 488-9934. Free.

**MIDWINTER NIGHT:** Park Slope United Methodist Church hosts an evening of storytelling, music and theater for all ages. 6:30 pm. Sixth Avenue at Eighth Street. (718) 746-3093.

**NEW YEAR CELEBRATION:** Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a pre-Chinese New Year event. Activities include zongzi, holiday traditions, Chinese astrology, calligraphy and more. 7 pm. Reservations are \$20. 260 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

**SOCK HOP:** The Caisers perform. \$50 per person includes buffet. Filles attire please. Our Lady of Angels Church, 337 74th St. (718) 874-8000.

**BREAD AND TORIAH:** Celebration of 10 years of Kales Chaganim. Honorees include Rabbi Ellen. Continued on next page...

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**The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob**  
Sat. Feb. 1st 8-10:30pm  
A New York rabbi travels to Paris and gets mixed up in a comedy of errors. This is complicated by a broad slapstick farce about a bigoted businessman (Louis de Funes as Victor Pivert) who is forced to disguise himself as a rabbi. With echoes of silent-screen humor, this film is regarded in some circles as one of the funniest films ever made. Nominated for the 1974 Golden Globe Awards.  
Featuring post-screening discussion with Mr. Paul Rothman, Independent filmmaker/Founder of the Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival.

**Time of Favor**  
Sat. Feb. 8th 8-10:30pm  
Winner of six Israeli Oscars including Best Picture, Time of Favor is a taut thriller about the tense relationship between Orthodox Jewish Nationalists and the military. An Orthodox soldier finds his loyalty torn between his Rabbi and his commanding officer.  
Featuring post-screening discussion with a representative of the Israeli consulate.

**Leon the Pig Farmer**  
Sat. Feb. 15th 8-10:30pm  
In this tiny British satire, Leon Geller is a "nice Jewish boy" who accidentally discovers that his biological father is a gentle pig farmer in Yorkshire. As he considers the differing lifestyles of the two sets of parents, Leon has to make a decision about his future.  
Featuring post-screening discussion with Simcha Weinstein, former associate of the British Film Commission.

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# Sheer poetry

## Poet laureate looking to reward borough's budding wordsmiths

By Paulanno Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

What Whitman must be smiling. His beloved Brooklyn, the borough that inspired his greatest work, is finally giving poets the recognition they need. Borough President Mark Markowitz is launching "Brooklyn Poetry Outreach," a monthly poetry reading series at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble, 267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street. The reading will feature an adult poet selected by Brooklyn Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman followed by an open mic and finally a young poet chosen by Siegelman.

Siegelman is inviting students from elementary through high school to submit their best work to him. The selected young poet's parents, relatives and friends, as well as community leaders and the public are invited to attend the readings, during which the youngster will be awarded a certificate of recognition from the borough president. [All winning poems will appear on the borough president's Web site at [www.brooklyn-usa/index2.html](http://www.brooklyn-usa/index2.html), along with the poet laureate's poem of the month.]

The program is really the brainchild of Siegelman, who was appointed poet laureate on Jan. 24, 2002.

"The position of poet laureate was left open to whatever ideas the poet laureate had," Siegelman told GO

### POETRY

"Brooklyn Poetry Outreach," a monthly poetry reading series hosted by Brooklyn Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman, 267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, begins Jan. 27 at 6:30 pm with poet-singer Marion Palm. Open mic sign-up begins at 6 pm. For more information, call (718) 855-9066.

Poems will be judged by their artistic use of poetic devices, sensitivity to social issues and the inventiveness of their personal search. Send entries to Ken Siegelman, 2225 W. Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11223.

Brooklyn. "I expanded it to include the reading series to make poetry a more inclusive vehicle for all Brooklynites."

Siegelman believes the position should not be merely an honorary one to advance the career of the poet.

"There are many different poets in Brooklyn, but they are not localized and don't meet each other," he said. "I thought it would be a good idea to bring together all these groups in a prestigious place — Barnes & Noble — a beautiful, beautiful location. This will be a tremendous initiative that has not existed before for both professional and amateur poets."

Siegelman, who was the 57th Brooklyn Poet Laureate from 1997 to 2002, taught social studies for 34 years, 32 of them at Abraham Lincoln High School in Coney Island. While

he was teaching, Siegelman came up with the interesting innovation of using poetry to teach social studies to his students, many of whom were learning English as a second language.

"Language was the only thing that stood in their way," said Siegelman. "I used my poetry to bridge the language gap."

At first teachers and publishers were skeptical. Siegelman said they asked, "What would a social studies teacher know about poetry?"

He showed them that poetry could personalize the subject and induce critical thinking.

"In two of my books, 'Urbania' and 'American Imprints,' for each poem I created a brief synopsis of the social and political context with which the poem was written and one or four critical thinking questions, which forced the reader to question what the poet was actually saying," he said.

Despite the initial skepticism, "When it took off, it was extremely slow at first," said Siegelman.

Today, Siegelman is the author of nine books of poetry, three of which have been distributed by Teacher's Discovery, Discovery Enterprises and the Gifted Education Press, as well as Siegelman's daughter, Imma, 14, and three of his books have been purchased by the Rockefeller Library at Brown University.



Brooklyn's Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman

The Brooklyn Papers / Craig Margolis

One of Siegelman's favorite subjects is the neighborhoods of Brooklyn in all of their glorious diversity. In "Gerritsen Beach" he writes, "Green cut-out Shanties/Still trial many of the front windows, clustering/At Easter/Much the way some outside Christmas lights/Always seem to linger well into mid-February." In "Bensonhurst," Siegelman gives Brooklynites heroic grandeur. "It was the fathers, Grandfathers/And all their sons/Conceived in parked Buicks with the passion/Of hot blooded Romans who never read/Shakespeare/Or heard of the Renaissance..."

The poetry series will begin on Jan. 29 with poet-singer Marion Palm reading. Palm, who lives in Sunset Park with her son and their two cats, is the daughter of Swedish immigrant parents. Her work is archived in the Oral History collection at the National Museum of Naturalization and Im-

migration on Ellis Island, where she is recorded reading a poem about her grandmother Theresa coming to America with her son, Sven. Palm is the author of six chapbooks. Her poetry speaks to the condition of recent immigrants: separation from family, striving to fit in, expectations and disappointments of those who must negotiate between two languages and two different cultures. After working with Markowitz on this project, Siegelman believes he and the borough president have something in common.

"All his life Marty aspired to be a borough president," says Siegelman.

"And all my life I've wanted to be poet laureate."

Now Siegelman is proud to be part of the borough president's plan to "provide morale and a revitalized sense for Brooklyn and to reach out to Brooklyn's rich heritage."

### OMNI...

Continued from page G 01

"Enti' acte," a lovely miniature originally composed for flute and guitar. The Debussy Sonata for Flute, Viola and Cello are being performed, because, as the flutist says, "they're for odd combinations of instruments, and are really beautiful pieces to hear."

Interestingly, Wechsler and Wolfan have never performed in concert the second Beethoven sonata for piano and cel-

lo — marked by a lengthy and exquisite first movement adagio — which should only add excitement to their interpretation.

The ensemble plays in the intimate confines of the renovated concert hall at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, where Wechsler is a member of the faculty. With 100 seats, he considers it "the perfect size for this kind of music."

After 20 years of performing for loyal audiences in Brooklyn, he also plays flute in the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra — Wechsler weighs in on the continuing debate of classical music.

"But it's not an entirely dead issue," he continues. "Opera is growing, and has been for the last 10 years. And with 'La Boheme' on Broadway and Mark Morris' version

### MUSIC

The Omni Ensemble, with guest artists Laura Sherman and Sam Kephart, presents music by Beethoven, Debussy, Ravel and Bartok. Tickets are \$15, \$12 students and \$8 seniors. Tickets are available at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, 55 Seventh Avenue at Union Place in Park Slope. Tickets are \$15, \$12 students and \$8 seniors. Visit [www.omniensemble.org](http://www.omniensemble.org) on the Web or at (718) 859-8649.

of "The Nutcracker" ("The Hard Nut") at BAM, it opens up standard places to new audiences with a new look and sensibility. I think there's hope."

Part of that hope is a musical group that Wechsler has helped form at the Conservatory of Music.

"We've started a community group, and there's been a big response from people looking to participate in the music in a more hands-on fashion," he explains. "This, in turn, makes them better audience participants. The biggest challenge is to get a response from the younger generation, which we are — we're getting a range from high school kids to adults in their 50s."

Such groups take Wechsler back to his youth: "When I

was growing up in Brooklyn, there were several groups like this, including one in Borough Park that I played in. Education is the key, and we are now bringing music education to schools. It's music through the ages, from baroque to contemporary."

Through its concerts and teaching, Wechsler is trying to ensure that audiences of all ages enjoy the delights that classical music can bring.

"When you're young, you think it's old-fashioned," he says. "But that always changes the more you learn, the more you know and the more you hear."

## WHERE TO GO...

**ILLUSTRATIONS AND COMEDY**, 8 p.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 140 Montague St. (718) 768-9471.

**PUPPETWORKS**: "The Prince and the Pauper," 7 p.m. 250 Broadway, 7 p.m. 250 Broadway, 7 p.m. 250 Broadway.

**BASEBALL REGISTRATION**: Prospect Youth Council, 250 Broadway, 7 p.m. 250 Broadway.

**KIDS CAFE**: Canteen Inc., presents Kids Cafe Festival, 3 p.m. See Sat.

**OTHER**

**BLOOD DRIVE**: at East Midwood Jewish Center, 815 10th Ave., 421 30th Ave., 1625 Ocean Ave. (800) 852-8000.

**TALMUD CLASSES**: Congregation Beth Elohim, 1718 59th St. (718) 596-5966.

**LECTURE SERIES**: Congregation Beth Elohim hosts a learning series entitled "Jewish Wisdom: A Prophet's Reading is from the Book of Jeremiah, 9:20 am, five consecutive weeks, \$75. Includes materials, 274 Bedford St. (718) 768-3814.

**TILKIN TALK**: Midrash Center, an organizer for Tilkun, Jewish magazine and social change organization, speaks at Brooklyn Society for Social Change, 11 am, 53 Prospect Park West, 718-768-2772.

**BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART**: curator talk by Charlotte Kroll on "The Dinner Party" included in museum admission of \$6, free for members and children 12 and under, 1 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 638-5000.

**CIVIL LIBERTY TALK**: Civil Liberties attorney Lynne Stewart speaks on "WBLA, Lush Point and Centro Gato" at Stover represents the status of women according to Jewish law, 8 pm, 1718 59th St. (718) 596-5966.

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## Show must go on

The fallout from 9-11 continues. The Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music scheduled to perform a Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music recital with pianist Sara Davis Buechner at 3 p.m. on Jan. 26, however, the Vancouver, Canada-based group is unable to enter the country in time for the concert due to the indefinite extension of the visa application process put into place by the Immigration and Naturalization Service following the terrorist attacks, according to Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music manager Wanda Fleck.

Instead of cancelling the performance, Buechner will give a solo recital on that date and time at the same location, the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, on Lafayette Avenue in Sunset Park. Buechner — a faculty member of New York University who has performed with the New York Philharmonic and has just returned from a Japanese tour — will perform a program featuring music from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Opening with Mozart's Sonata in D major, Buechner then plays Chopin's Sonata No. 3 in B minor before entering the trodden piano territory. The six "Salon Pieces" of Rudolf Friml are lighthearted works, as are George Gershwin's five "Rhapsodies." Buechner wraps up her recital with George Wein's "Rhapsody in Blue," in a solo piano version.

The Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music hopes to have Buechner and the Sorella Quartet return to perform the cancelled Shostakovich quintet next season, said Fleck.

Tickets are \$15, \$5 students. For reservations, call (718) 855-3053.

### Seniors: 15% Discount

to 8 pm. William R. Prospect Park, 718-287-4431.

**HEALTH SCREENING**: Assemblyman Steven Cimbrotta's office offers a vascular screening, 10 am to 3 pm, 1600 Sheepshead Bay Road, (718) 743-4070. Free.

**RECEPTION**: To the exhibit, "Brooklyn Artists Exploring Nature in the Urban Environment," 3 to 5 pm, Five Metro-Library, 718-264-3330. Free.

**BARNES AND NOBLE**: Kids are invited to Little Bit Storytime, 2:30 pm, 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**RECEPTION**: The National Gallery presents its exhibit "Critical Consumption," 6 to 8 pm, 33 Clinton St. (718) 697-0444. Free.

**SUPPORT GROUP**: Union Center for Women begins an 8-session group, 5:45 to 7 pm, 218 Broadway, 718-624-2803.

**BARGE MUSIC**: chamber music works by Beethoven, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2803.

**BARNES BAR**: traditional Turkish music and dance, 9 pm, 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**BAM**: presents "Uncle Varney," 7:30 pm, 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**PLAY RIALTO Theater Company** presents "Mama Mia," 8 pm, 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**IMPACT THEATRE**: presents "The Open Studio: Smack Mellon Artist Studio Program" presents works by its 2002 Studio Artists. Noon to 6 pm, See Sat.

### Fri. Jan 31

**DRAWING COURSE**: Sam Mark National Art Studio presents "Zen of Seating and Drawing," 1 p.m. 3302 Ave. U, (718) 421-0201. Free.

**BLACK HISTORY**: Learn about environmental leaders within the African-American community and how they are changing the face of the environmental movement. Noon to 4 pm, 410 Henry St. (718) 267-3007.

**BARGE MUSIC**: chamber music works by Beethoven, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2803.

**BAM TALK**: Examine the past, present and future of the African-American community on spiritual, scientific and religious issues, 7:30 pm, 410 Henry St. (718) 267-3007.

**200 BOOTS**: presents Caribbean music with Sonora Costana, 10 pm, No cover, 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

**BAM**: presents "Uncle Varney," 7:30 pm, 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**FIRST WEEKEND**: Brooklyn Artists Exploring Nature in the Urban Environment, 3 to 5 pm, Five Metro-Library, 718-264-3330. Free.

**PLAY RIALTO Theater Company** presents "Mama Mia," 8 pm, 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 852-9066. Free.

**IMPACT THEATRE**: "The Golden Rule" presents works by its 2002 Studio Artists. Noon to 6 pm, See Sat.

### Tues, Jan 28

**PLANT-DRAWING**: Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "A Horticultural Trade Show and Symposium," 40 of the northwestern's leading rare, exotics, growers and suppliers, 10 am to 4 pm, 1000 Washington Ave. Call 718-624-6506.

**SUPPORT**: Manhattan Medical Center's "Cancer Research: A Support Group," 7:30 pm, 1111 Broadway, 718-624-6506.

**BLOOD DRIVE**: at East Midwood Jewish Center, 815 10th Ave., 421 30th Ave., 1625 Ocean Ave. (800) 852-8000.

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### Wed, Jan 29

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**SUPPORT**: Manhattan Medical Center's "Cancer Research: A Support Group," 7:30 pm, 1111 Broadway, 718-624-6506.

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### Thurs, Jan 30

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**SUPPORT**: Manhattan Medical Center's "Cancer Research: A Support Group," 7:30 pm, 1111 Broadway, 718-624-6506.

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